



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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AIR HAZARDS CAUSED BY IMPROPERLY MARKED & LIGHTED COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received reports of aircraft collisions with unlighted or improperly lighted communications towers. Accident reports and studies reveal that radio tower owners and FCC licensees need to be more aware of the need for conformance to FCC issued obstruction marking and lighting specifications.

When radio towers are greater than 200 feet in height and/or near an airport, the owner or licensee must apply for FCC issued obstruction marking and lighting specifications. During construction, temporary warning lights must be installed at the top of the structure, and at each level where permanent lights will be installed.

Licensees should insure that their towers are marked and lighted in accordance with the specifications on their permits. Daily inspections must be made to ensure that the lights are on and operating properly. Any variances must be approved by the FCC's Antenna Survey Branch (ASB).

If a light outage occurs which cannot be corrected within thirty minutes, the local FAA Flight Service Station (FSS) must be contacted immediately. The FSS will issue a warning to pilots. The FSS must also be notified when the lights are again operational so the warning may be rescinded.

The FCC intends to continue its close scrutiny of radio towers. Appropriate action, including issuance of fines and/or revocation of the station license, will be taken against the user or owner of any unauthorized or improperly marked radio tower.

For more information contact Ana Curtis, Attorney/Advisor, Public Service Division, on (202) 632-7240. Also refer to Commission Rules in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 17.